

March 7, 2016

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Renee Toper, and I am a concerned citizen from Central Village.

I am writing you to ask for your support of **Raised Senate Bill 354**, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut . This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services, and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

This bill is important to me because it will finally allow for my daughter, Abigail to receive services. Currently, we pay out of pocket, use grants or advocate for services to happen at school. For my daughter, Music Therapy has improved coordination, fine and gross motor skills, verbal imitation and body regulation. It is important to provide licenses to therapists for many reasons including, but not limited to; easier access to therapy, services to be conducted by properly trained and qualified practitioners and insurance to cover therapy as they would speech, physical or occupational therapy.

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on **Raised Senate Bill 354!**

Sincerely,
Renee Toper
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